

**INSTITUTE OF WORLD
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS**

MEDIA DIGEST

13.11 – 19.11.2023



THREE MAIN TOPICS

- **MGIMO And StSAU Will Launch a Double Degree Program**
- **Optical System for Searching Defects in Vegetables and Fruits**
- **Rabobank Expects Food Prices to Fall in 2024**



EDUCATION

EDUCATION / 15.11.2023

Kazakhstan and China Are Launching a Joint Agricultural Center

A delegation from the Northwestern Agricultural and Forestry University of China visited the Kostanay Regional University named after Baiturssinuly. The parties discussed issues of cooperation in the field of agriculture, veterinary medicine, ecology and biology. In particular, we are talking about the development of an agricultural center at the Kostanay Regional University for joint testing of new crop varieties. In addition, Kazakh scientists are preparing to travel to China, where they will undergo an internship and conduct their research in May next year. [Kazinform](#)



EDUCATION / 16.11.2023

New Classroom in Timiryazevka

At RGAU-MSHA named after K.A. Timiryazev, a new classroom was opened, created by Bryanskselmash JSC together with Gomselmash OJSC and Rosagroleasing JSC. The educational space at the Department of Tractors and Automobiles is designed for 30 students and is equipped with modern equipment that helps improve the efficiency of the educational process. Demonstration samples of the main components of agricultural machinery are also presented in the audience.

[Chief Plowman](#)

EDUCATION / 16.11.2023

MGIMO And StSAU Will Launch a Double Degree Program

The Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the Stavropol State Agrarian University intend to launch two joint educational programs in the undergraduate areas of "Economics" (the "World Agricultural Markets" program) and "Tourism" (the "Tourism and Hospitality Industry" program). The educational process will be conducted in an online format. Thanks to this, students will be able to undergo practical and theoretical training both at SSAU and directly at MGIMO. The courses will be taught in full-time and remote mode by staff and experts from both universities.

[SSAU](#)

 SCIENCE

SCIENCE / 14.11.2023

Namibia Establishes First Public Seed Bank

Namibia's first community seed bank opened this week in the Kavango West region. The event marked a significant step forward in conserving local seed varieties, preserving biodiversity and strengthening food security, the Environment Investment Fund (EIF) said in a statement. EIF representative Lot Ndamanomhata highlighted the key role of the newly established seed bank in conserving natural resources and curbing the depletion of seed variety diversity. [Xinhua](#)



SCIENCE / 14.11.2023

New ASF Vaccine Being Tested in Australia

Australia's CSIRO has launched a project to evaluate the new vaccine candidate with US biotechnology company MBF Therapeutics. Although ASF has never been identified in Australia, recent outbreaks have been reported in Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea. Analysts estimate that a large-scale ASF outbreak in Australia would cost the country's economy \$2 billion. [ViZh](#)

SCIENCE / 14.11.2023

USDA Confirms Presence of Six Unique Strains of ASF Virus

The US Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) announced that agency researchers have reclassified the number of ASF virus strains from 25 to just six unique genotypes. This scientific innovation could provide new insight into how ASF researchers around the world classify ASFV isolates and could make it easier for scientists to develop vaccines that match the different strains circulating in ASF-endemic areas around the world. [Pig333.com](#)

SCIENCE / 17.11.2023

Chinese Scientists Breed an Oilseed Rice Variety

A team of scientists from the China National Rice Research Institute managed to increase the content of lipids – vegetable fats – in a high – yielding variety of grain crop by more than five times. Researchers were able to achieve such results largely thanks to gene editing of rice. According to the institute's staff, this development will be a revolutionary discovery that will allow the use of rice as an alternative to traditional oilseed crops such as soybeans and rapeseed. [Greater Asia](#)





INNOVATION

INNOVATION / 13.11.2023

Smart Self-Propelled Sprayer in Russia

The Pegas-Agro company has created and tested a domestic “smart” plant sprayer that can increase the efficiency of field processing. New sensors that increase the level of intelligence of agricultural machines are installed on booms of any length. Each of them controls the application of herbicides to sections 60 cm long while moving at speeds of up to 25 km/h. Researchers believe that the implementation of the project will reduce the cost of plant protection products by almost half, increase the speed of spraying and reduce the environmental load on the soil. [Chief Plowman](#)



INNOVATION / 15.11.2023

Drone for Irrigating Fields Was Printed on a 3D Printer in Russia

Residents of a modern platform for the development of innovations and creative industries in the Rostov region – the “Center for True Values” – have developed and 3D printed a drone for irrigating fields, the regional government reported. The development of priority scientific areas is one of the main goals of the “Science and Universities” national project. It is clarified that, in addition to the relative low cost of production, the new drone has a high degree of maintainability and can be modified to suit the needs of a specific customer. [National projects](#)



INNOVATION / 16.11.2023

CNH Industrial and Syngenta Will Create an Adaptive Digital Platform

As part of the international exhibition Agritechnica 2023, Syngenta and CNH Industrial announced plans to integrate the Cropwise digital platform with the Case IH and New Holland Agriculture brands of agricultural equipment. Now the exchange of information between the farmer, technological agronomy systems and agricultural machines will become simpler, clearer and more accessible. According to the developers, the process will make it possible to respond to any challenges many times faster, while raising the level of decisions made to a qualitatively different level. [Chief Plowman](#)

INNOVATION / 18.11.2023

Optical System for Searching Defects in Vegetables and Fruits

Specialists from the Federal Scientific Agroengineering Center “All-Russian Institute of Mechanization” (FNATS VIM) and colleagues from the Institute of General Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences have developed an optical system for express diagnostics of mechanical damage and diseases of vegetable crops, potatoes and apples after harvest. The new technology ensures 95.4% accuracy in size sorting and 93.1% accuracy in defects. The installation uses artificial intelligence and machine learning. As the press service of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation reported, the developers hope to optimize the sorting of fruits and improve the quality of seeds. [TASS](#)

 WORLD MARKET

WORLD MARKET / 16.11.2023

WORLD MARKET / 16.11.2023

Italian Parliament Approves Ban on Lab-Grown Meat

The lower house of the Italian parliament has passed a law banning the use of food produced in laboratory conditions. Previously, the legislative initiative was approved by the upper house of the country's parliament. The law prohibits the sale, use, import and export of food and feed "from cells or tissues derived from vertebrate animals." Enterprises that violate the ban will face fines of up to 150 thousand euros (162.7 thousand US dollars) and closure of production. [Reuters](#)



The European Commission Will Allocate 186 Million Euros For Food Promotion in 2024

The European Commission will allocate 185.9 million euros (201.8 million dollars) in 2024 to finance activities to promote EU agricultural products within and outside European countries. The program adopted by the commission is aimed at developing new sales opportunities, taking into account political priorities and analysis of expected exports to existing and emerging markets, the European Commission noted. Marketing campaigns must be designed to open up new market opportunities for EU farmers and food processors. [European Commission](#)

WORLD MARKET / 17.11.2023

Egypt's Wheat Stocks Could Fall to 20-Year Low

In Egypt, ending grain stocks at the end of the 2023/24 season are expected to fall to their lowest levels in 20 years amid lower harvests and increased demand, the US Department of Agriculture predicts. The wheat sown area in the country will be 1.35 million hectares against 1.45 million hectares in 2022/23, while consumption will increase by 50 thousand tonnes to 20.6 million tonnes. As a result, wheat imports into Egypt are projected to increase by 7% in 2023/24, to 12 million tonnes. At the end of 2022/23, the largest suppliers of wheat to Egypt were Russia (8.1 million tonnes) and the EU (1.8 million tonnes). [World Grain](#)





ANALYTICS

ANALYTICS / 16.11.2023

IGC Raised its Forecast for Russian Grain Exports in 2023/24

The International Grains Council (IGC) in a November report raised its forecast for global cereal production in the 2023/24 season by 3 million tonnes, to 2,295 million tonnes. The upward adjustment affected the assessment of the corn harvest, as well as wheat, primarily in Ukraine, Russia and Turkey. In particular, for Russia, the forecast for the grain harvest in 2023/24 has been increased by 2.4 million tonnes, to 132.6 million tonnes, including wheat – by 1 million tonnes, to 90 million tonnes. At the same time, the forecast for Russian grain exports has been increased, which, according to IGC estimates, will exceed 60 million tonnes, of which more than 50 million tonnes will be wheat. [I.G.C.](#)



ANALYTICS / 16.11.2023

Rabobank Expects Food Prices to Fall in 2024

According to the annual Agri Commodity Markets Outlook report prepared by Rabobank analysts, global commodity prices will decline in 2024 after three years of growth. Due to the increase in production, the decline will affect staple foods such as sugar, coffee, corn and soybeans. However, despite lower prices and increased availability of goods, the bank forecasts that demand will remain weak as consumers continue to face economic difficulties associated with high interest rates and inflation. Rabobank expects weak global economic growth in 2024 to limit demand growth for agricultural commodities. [Rabobank](#)

[Rabobank](#)

ANALYTICS / 16.11.2023

Asian Countries Boost Demand for Rice Imports

Increased demand for external purchases of rice from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Iraq caused an increase in export prices in the segment. This week, the cost of 5% Indian parboiled rice increased to 493-503 dollars per tonne, while prices for 5% rice from Thailand and Vietnam reached 570-575 dollars and 650-655 dollars per tonne. Despite the presence of a 20% export duty, the price competitiveness of Indian rice encourages price-sensitive importers to increase purchases in this area. [The Economic Times](#)



ANALYTICS / 17.11.2023

Nigeria to Cut Cocoa Production

According to the forecast of the African commodity exchange AFEX Commodities Exchange, in 2023/2024, cocoa production in Nigeria is expected to decrease by 4.4% year-on-year to 296 thousand tonnes. The decline in the productivity of Nigerian cocoa plantations is due to the need for large-scale renewal of plantings, the spread of fungal diseases of cocoa trees and uneven rainfall patterns. Nigeria is the third largest producer of cocoa beans in West Africa after Ivory Coast and Ghana. [Agence Ecofin](#)

[Agence Ecofin](#)